

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2415

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2958

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJ: CSCE POLICY: WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION

REF: STATE 69945

1. DURING QUADRIpartite dinner April 25 Soviet delegation head KOVALEV informed us, UK and French del heads that, during May 9 meeting of Committee One (Security), Soviets intend to have their rep (MENDELEVICH) make a statement on the significance of the day for the USSE. Statement would be tactful but "without diminishing the significance" of the occasion. He inquired about the intentions of the others. French amabassador indicated that he too would join in to pay tribute to those who fell. UK ambassador stated that, while UK preferred to look forward, not back, he would, in view of USSR and French intentions, also speak and pay tribute, while emphasizing the future. We stated that we had no instructions concerning a possible statement and would have to reserve.

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2. FRENCH AND BRITISH HAVE, UNFORTUNATELY, CONFIRMED

SOVIETS IN THEIR INTENTION TO MAKE A MAY 9 WORLD WAR II SPEECH, AND PROBABLY HAVE CONVINCED KOVALEV TO DO SO AT DELEGATION HEAD LEVEL. WE CONSIDER THIS DEVELOPMENT MOST UNFORTUNATE, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO PREVENT IT, SINCE EUROPEAN SECURITY IS CLEARLY WITHIN THE MANDATE OF COMMITTEE I, AND THERE ARE AMPLE PRECEDENTS IN CSCE FOR RELATING PAST HISTORY TO THE WORK OF THIS CONFERENCE.

3. FRG DEL HEAD, WHO IS AWARE OF SOVIET INTENTIONS, HAS URGED SOVIETS PRIVATELY NOT REPEAT NOT TO MAKE AN ANTI-GERMAN SPEECH, AND HAS WARNED THAT HE WILL RESPOND IF SOVIETS SHOULD DO THIS.

4. WE BELIEVE OUR SILENCE WOULD BE MOST CONSPICUOUS IF OTHER WARTIME ALLIES MAKE SPEECHES ON MAY 9, AND, IN KEEPING WITH SPIRIT OF GUIDANCE CONTAINED PARA 4 REFTEL, WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO MAKE SOME BLAND REMARKS ON THE LESSONS OF HISTORY AND THE NEED FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE. REQUEST GUIDANCE.
DALE

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